



STATE SENATOR BEVERLY POWELL

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ICYMI: *Texas Monthly*: Testing the Test: New Legislation Filed to Audit STAAR

Austin, TX—Days after filing legislation calling for a state audit of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam, the *Texas Monthly*, which originally reported high achieving Texas students were failing the controversial test, is highlighting proposed STAAR oversight reforms in both chambers of the Texas Legislature. Featured in *Texas Monthly's* report, "Testing the Test: New Legislation Filed to Audit STAAR", is Senator Powell's Senate Bill 2297 which calls for a state audit of the STAAR, with a report to be delivered to the Governor, Lt. Governor and members of the Legislature no later than July 1, 2020. The *Texas Monthly* wrote about Powell's audit:

"...**State Senator Beverly Powell** announced that she had filed legislation to direct the state auditor to investigate both the STAAR and the STAAR alternate, with a completion deadline no later than July 1, 2020. "When you have a problem that is so widespread, you can't accomplish in a hearing what you can in an in-depth study," **said Powell**, a Democrat who spent years listening to STAAR reading complaints as a school board member in the Burleson Independent School District before winning election to the state senate from Tarrant County just last November. "I agree with the need to test students with a rigorous test instrument, but let's use an instrument that's on grade level, that has integrity, and that measures what you intend for it to measure." **Powell's** legislation may have real traction, despite the Dems' minority in the Texas Legislature. An audit—assuming the GOP lets it happen—would allow for a rigorous and fair examination of STAAR's accuracy by the government, and would provide actionable information that could lead to changes in the test.

"...I think it's universally accepted that there's a problem there," **said Powell**. No one is saying that Texas kids don't have a reading problem—the quality of our schools bounces between 40th and 43rd in national rankings. But the STAAR may be hurting more than it's helping. Investigating problems with the exam, **said Powell**, "is one of the most important issues that we've got to get resolved this session. How do we get school funding right if our testing instruments are wrong?"

You can read the full *Texas Monthly* article on STAAR oversight proposals here:

https://www.texasmonthly.com/news/testing-the-test-new-legislation-filed-to-audit-staar/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Web%20Social&utm_content=staartests

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